GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Classification of Pollutants
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines under the Environment Protection Act to term/ classify "pollutants" which are harmful to human health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the electromagnetic radiation emanated from cell phone towers is harmful for health and could be termed as "pollutants" under Environment Protection Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTAND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b)Environmental pollutant has been defined under the Environment Protection Act 1986 as "any solid, liquid or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be, or tend to be, injurious to environment". The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notifies the permissible value of these pollutants as environmental standards for compliance.

(c) & (d)There are no conclusive data available on the issue of Health Hazards due to radiation emitted from cell mobile towers. India has adopted Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Department of Telecommunications has prescribed stricter precautionary limits for EMF radiation from mobile towers which are one-tenth of the limits prescribed internationally by ICNIRP. Electromagnetic radiation is not a pollutant under Environmental Protection Act.

*****